

DISPENSING OPTICIANS design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for the client according to written optical prescription or specification. They assist the client with selecting frames. Opticians measure the client for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. They prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. They verify exactness of finished lens spectacles. They adjust frame and lens position to fit client and may shape or reshape frames.

Some Opticians specialize in fitting contacts by measuring eye shape and size, selecting the type of contact lens material, and preparing work orders specifying the prescription and lens size. Opticians show the client how to insert, remove, and care for their contacts, and ensure the fit is correct.

Opticians keep records on client prescriptions, work orders, and payments; track inventory and sales; and perform other administrative duties.

Requirements

- ▲ Training is generally offered as on-the-job training by the employer for up to two years.
- ▲ Manual dexterity and ability to do precision work.
- ▲ Skills to communicate with the public with tact and patience.
- ▲ Aptitude for math and physics.
- ▲ Registration is not required for opticians employed by ophthalmologists, optometrists, or working under the registration of spectacle lens dispensers or contact lens dispensers.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▲ Opticians, Dispensing
Median hourly wage: | \$15.77 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$33,129 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Opticians, Dispensing

Job Outlook

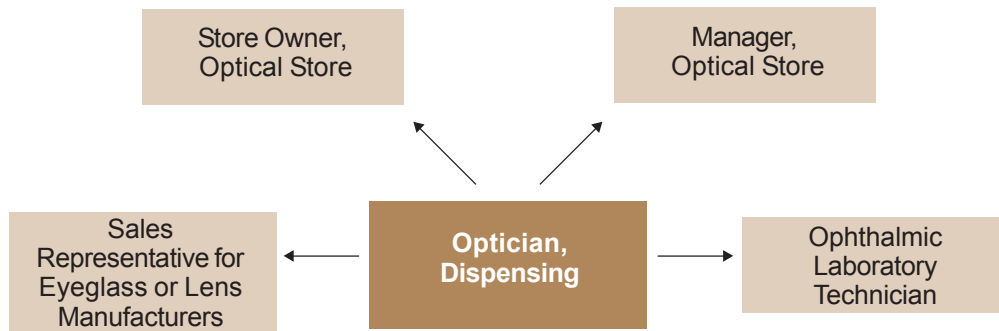
▲ Estimated number of Opticians, Dispensing in 2004:	5,900
▲ Estimated number of Opticians, Dispensing in 2014:	6,700
▲ Estimated annual job openings:	180

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Opticians Association of America
(800) 433-8977
www.oaa.org
- ▲ American Board of Opticianry
(703) 719-5800
www.abo.org
- ▲ Medical Board of California
(916) 263-2382
www.medbd.ca.gov
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 167
Dispensing Opticians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.